

REMARKS:

Claims 1, 6-15, 18 and 20 have been amended.

Claims 19 and 21 have been canceled.

New claims 22-28 have been added.

Claims 1-18, 20 and 22-28 remain in this application.

Claims 1, 6-15, 18 and 20 have been amended for the sake of better clarity.

New claims 22-28 are directed to further embodiments of the present invention.

Support for the amendments to claim 1 can be found in the drawing of the second dispensing tip (4) in Figure 3.

Support for the amendments to claims 6-10 can be found at page 10, lines 25-28, page 11, lines 8-12, and page 16, lines 7-10.

Support for the amendments to claim 11 is found at page 10, lines 2-4.

Support for the amendments made to claim 12 is found at page 10, lines 2-6, and page 16, lines 2-5.

Claims 13-15 have been amended to replace the expression "lower end" with the expression -sealable end--, which has antecedent basis in amended claim 1.

Support for the amendments made to claim 18 is provided at page 5, lines 9-11, and at page 11, line 29 to page 12, line 2.

Support for the amendments made to claim 20 is provided at page 16, lines 1-2.

Support for new claim 22 is provided at page 16, lines 1-2.

Support for new claim 23 is provided at page 5, lines 9-11 and at page 11, line 29 to page 12, line 1.

Support for new claim 24 is provided at page 11, lines 22-29.

Support for new claim 25 is provided at page 18, lines 26-29.

Support for new claims 26 to 28 is provided at page 5, lines 2-4 and at page 9, lines 5-7.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

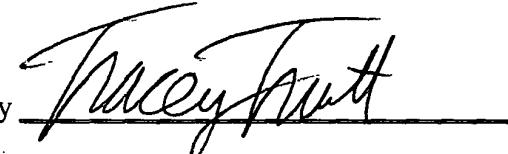
It is respectfully submitted that the above-identified application is now in a condition for allowance and favourable reconsideration and prompt allowance of these claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Any additional fee which is due in connection with this amendment should be applied against our Deposit Account No. 19-0522.

In view of the foregoing, a Notice of Allowance appears to be in order and such is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted

By



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ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT(S)

Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

Claims 1, 6-15, 18 and 20 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A set of dispensing tips comprising:
 - i) a first dispensing tip comprising a lumen and a first and a second [sealable lower] end, said second end being sealable[;], and
 - ii) a second dispensing tip comprising a first open end and a second open end, wherein said second dispensing tip is sized to enter said lumen of said first dispensing tip.
6. (Amended) The set of dispensing tips of claim 1, wherein said sealable end of said first dispensing tip is sealed, and said first dispensing tip forms[is] a cuvette.
7. (Amended) The set of dispensing tips of claim 1, wherein said sealable end of said first dispensing tip is sealed, and said first dispensing tip forms[is] a reservoir.
8. (Amended) The set of dispensing tips of claim 1, wherein said sealable end of said first dispensing tip is sealed, and said first dispensing tip forms[is] a reaction chamber.
9. (Amended) The set of dispensing tips of claim 1, wherein said sealable end of said first dispensing tip is sealed, and said first dispensing tip forms[is] an incubation chamber.

10. (Amended) The set of dispensing tips of claim 1, wherein said sealable end of said first dispensing tip is sealed, and said first dispensing tip [is]forms a dilution chamber.

11. (Amended) The set of dispensing tips of claim 1, wherein said sealable end of said first dispensing tip is sealed, and said second dispensing tip is sized to reach the sealed end [extend the length of said lumen]of said first dispensing tip.

12. (Amended) A method for manipulating a sample[, handling] comprising:

- i) aspirating said sample [within] into a first dispensing tip having a first and a second end, said second end being sealable;
- ii) sealing [a lower] said sealable end of said first dispensing tip to produce a sealed dispensing tip[;], and
 - ii) inserting a second dispensing tip [within] into said sealed dispensing tip[;], and aspirating said sample within said sealed dispensing tip, or
 - iv) [reaspinating said sample,] withdrawning a diluent or reagent into said second dispensing tip and dispensing said one or more fluids diluent or said reagent into said sealed dispensing tip containing said sample to form a mixture with said sample[, or both, within said sealed dispensing tip].

13. (Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein in said step of sealing (step ii)[]), said [lower] sealable end of said first dispensing tip is sealed by compression.

14. (Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein in said step of sealing (step ii)[]), said[lower] sealable end of said first dispensing tip is sealed by heat.

15. (Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein in said step of sealing (step ii)[]), said [lower] sealable end of said first dispensing tip is sealed with a cap, or by plugging with a material.

18. (Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein after said step of aspirating (step i)[]), and before said step of sealing (step ii)[]), said [fluid] sample is [withdrawn] displaced from said [lower] second end toward said first end of said first dispensing tip.

20. (Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said step of [reaspirating] withdrawing (step iv)[]) [involves dispensing one or more fluids, and]is followed by[)] [reaspirating] removing said mixture into said second dispensing tip and [re]dispensing said [sample] mixture into said sealed first dispensing tip [one or more times] (step v).